

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 PRS-01

INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 FBIE-00 SY-04 DODE-00 IO-14 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03

DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 PM-07 /114 W

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O 191644Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8661

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 2183

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 2183 VICE 2182

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MARR, VS, PL

SUBJECT: MICHAL HOLUB

1. VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPASOWSKI  
ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM THIS AFTERNOON AND MADE THE  
FOLLOWING ORAL STATEMENT.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. WITH REGARD TO MR. MICHAL HOLUB,  
BORN ON APRIL 20, 1939, A MEMBER OF THE POLISH  
DELGATION TO THE ICCS IN SAIGON, I WISH TO SAY THAT,  
ON APRIL 14, POLISH PHYSICIANS FOUND  
THAT MR. HOLUB SUFFERED FROM MENTAL DISTURBANCES AFTER  
HIS STAY ON THE BEACH IN LONG HAI. ON THE SAME DAY,  
HE WAS TAKEN TO THE INFIRMARY. AT NIGHT, HE  
DISAPPEARED THAT THEN IT WAS LEARNED THAT HE WAS AT  
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. THE EMBASSY TURNED HIM OVER TO  
THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES. ON APRIL 17, 1974, MR. STANISLAW  
PRZYGODZKI, ACTING CHIEF OF THE POLISH DELEGATION, GOT IN  
TOUCH WITH MR. BYRD, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE  
EMBASSY, AND REQUESTED PROMPT RETURN OF MR. HOLUB  
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TO THE POLISH DELGATION. DESPITE THAT REQUEST,

HE HAS NOT RETURNED TO THE POLISH DELEGATION. PLEASE CONVEY TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OUR DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THIS CASE AND OUR REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE USE ITS INFLUENCE TO INSURE THE PROMPT AND SAFE RETURN OF MR. HOLUB TO THE POLISH DELEGATION. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HE IS AN ILL MAN, AS THE POLISH DOCTORS HAVE DETERMINED ON APRIL 14. IT MAY BE A CASE RESULTING FROM SUNSTROKE. I WISH TO RECALL THAT, WHENEVER THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED FOR OUR HELP IN ASSISTING IN THE RETURN OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN VIETNAM, WE HAVE DONE EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO HELP. WE EXPECT THAT YOU WILL DO EVERYTHING IN ORDER TO HELP IN THIS CASE OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERN. END QUOTE.

3. TOLD SPASOWSKI THAT I WOULD IMMEDIATELY TRANSMIT THIS REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT. I SAID THAT, AS HE HAS NOTED, OUR EMBASSY IN SAIGON HAS NOT CONSIDERED THAT IT WAS ITS FUNCTION TO KEEP MR. HOLUB AND HAD CONSEQUENTLY TURNED HIM OVER TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF THE HOST COUNTRY. AT THIS POINT, SPASOWSKI INTERRUPTED TO SAY THAT HIS AUTHORITIES DID NOT UNDERSTAND HOW IT HAD HAPPENED THAT THIS MAN, WHO WAS ILL, SHOULD HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES AFTER HE HAD REPORTED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. THE CASE HAD BEEN REPORTED IN THE AMERICAN PRESS, HE SAID, THE POLISH AUTHORITIES AT A HIGH LEVEL -INDEED, AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL -- HAD BEEN INFORMED ABOUT IT. THEY CONSIDERED THAT THIS WAS AN URGENT, HUMANITARIAN MATTER AND HOPED THAT MR. HOLUB WOULD BE RETURNED SHORTLY TO THE POLISH DELEGATION. IN A MORE PERSONAL VEIN, SPASOWSKI EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE MOST FORTUNATE IF THE MATTER COULD BE SETTLED PROMPTLY.

4. I SAID I HAD NOTED THAT, ACCORDING TO HIS STATEMENT, HOLUB HAD BEEN IN THE INFIRMARY. SPASOWSKI SAID HE HAD BEEN IN THE INFIRMARY IN THE COMPOUND IN WHICH THE ICCS DELEGATIONS WERE SITUATED. SPASOWSKI SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN INTERESTED TO LEARN

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THAT THIS COMPOUND WAS GUARDED BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS AND "THERE WAS AN INCLINATION TO GUESS" THAT, SINCE HE WAS ILL, HE COULD NOT HAVE LEFT THE INFIRMARY ALONE, BUT MUST SOMEHOW HAVE BEEN ASSISTED TO DO SO.

5. I ASKED WHAT THOUGHTS THE POLISH DELEGATION HAD ABOUT THE ILLNESS WHICH, IN HIS STATEMENT, SPASOWSKI HAD REFERRED TO. HE HAD SAID THAT HOLUB HAD BEEN

EXAMINED BY POLISH DOCTORS; HAD THEY REACHED A CONCLUSION? SPASOWSKI SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS THEY HAD RECEIVED FROM THE POLISH DELEGATION, HOLUB HAD BEEN AT THE BEACH AT LONG HAI, AND HAD DISAPPEARED FOR TWO HOURS. HIS COMPANIONS HAD ALERTED THE LOCAL POLICE TO HIS DISAPPEARANCE. THE POLISH HAD FOUND HIM AND BROUGHT HIM BACK TO HIS COMPANIONS. HE WAS THEN FOUND TO BE "COMPLETELY OUT OF BALANCE" AND WAS TAKEN TO POLISH DOCTORS IN THE DELEGATION COMPOUND, WHO GAVE HIM MEDICATION AND PUT HIM IN THE INFIRMARY FOR REST.

6. I TOLD SPASOWSKI I WOULD TRANSMIT HIS STATEMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT AND WOULD INFORM HIM AS SOON AS I HAD RECEIVED A REPLY TO IT.

7. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: SPASOWSKI PRESENTED THIS STATEMENT IN HIS USUAL CALM MANNER AND WAS CLEARLY CONCERNED TO TRY TO CONFINE IT TO ITS FORMAL FRAMEWORK OF A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN A MATTER OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERN. AT THE SAME TIME, HE WAS DEEPLY SERIOUS AND ATTEMPTED TO CONVEY THE TONE OF REACTION AT THE HIGHER LEVEL OF THE POLISH GOVERNMENT THROUGH HIS REFERENCE TO THE "INCLINATION TO GUESS," WITH ITS HINT ABOUT POSSIBLE ULTERIOR MOTIVES OF THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT.

8. WHEN WE MET ON APRIL 16, SPASOWSKI REFERRED APPRECIATIVELY TO PRATT BYRD'S VISIT TO WARSAW, SAYING THAT HIS HAD BEEN "A MOST WORTHWHILE INITIATIVE OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT" AND ONE WHICH, HE HOPED, WOULD HELP PROMOTE FURTHER DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN

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REGARDING THE ICCS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

9. IN ORDER SO FAR AS MAY BE POSSIBLE TO LIMIT POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO OUR ABILITY TO CONTINUE OUR DIALOGUE ON VIETNAM WITH THE POLES, I URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND SAIGON CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF DOING WHAT WE CAN TO FACILITATE AN INTERVIEW, UNDER ALL APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS, FOR A SUITABLE REPRESENTATIVE OR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLISH DELEGATION WITH MR. HOLUB, AT WHICH THEY COULD HEAR FROM HIM HIS OWN STATEMENT OF HIS DESIRES. SOME VARIATION OF THE PROCEDURES WHICH HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN CASES INVOLVING SOVIET DEFECTORS MIGHT BE ADAPTED FOR THIS PURPOSE. END COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION.

DAVIES

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NNN

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